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CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW PROGRAM

Position Posting

CHILDREN AND FAMILY LAW PROGRAM
ATTORNEY IN CHARGE

The Children and Family Law (CAFL) Program of the Committee for Public Counsel Services, the Massachusetts public defender agency, is seeking attorneys with experience in child welfare law to play key roles in the expansion of the CAFL Program. CAFL provides legal representation and advocacy to children and indigent parents in care and protection, child in need of services, and termination of parental rights cases throughout Massachusetts. New CAFL offices are being established in Brockton, Lowell, and Pittsfield, and an Attorney in Charge position is open for each of those offices. The Attorney in Charge will manage the local office and help with the management of the CAFL Program as a whole. He or she will also represent individual clients.

Responsibilities

The duties of the Attorney in Charge will include:

Management and Leadership

- Training, supervising, and evaluating staff attorneys and promoting their professional development
- Supervising an administrative assistant and assisting with the supervision of a staff social worker
- Assigning cases and other work within the office
- Maintaining the office's library, including sample pleadings and memoranda
- Assisting in the development of operating procedures for the office and generating management reports
- Attending meetings with CAFL administrative staff and staff in other CAFL offices to discuss management issues and child welfare policy and practice issues
- Assisting staff in other CAFL offices
- Helping to train and providing technical assistance to private attorneys
- Developing and maintaining working relationships with local courts, bar associations, regional coordinators, the Department of Social Services, and other organizations and individuals working in child welfare law
- Identifying systemic problems and developing strategies for addressing those problems

Client representation

- Interviewing adult clients
- Visiting and interviewing child clients
- Pre-trial investigation and discovery, including locating and interviewing witnesses, reviewing documentary evidence, and consulting with service providers
- Legal research and writing
- Representing clients in pretrial proceedings, hearings, trials, and interlocutory appeals
- Advocating for appropriate services for clients and other family members
- Coordinating advocacy with CAFL social work staff

Requirements

Candidates must be eligible to practice law in Massachusetts; have a minimum of seven years experience, including at least five in child welfare law; and have extensive litigation experience. Candidates must be committed to serving a culturally diverse, low income population. The position requires travel; a valid driver's license and access to an automobile are necessary. Foreign language skills are desirable.

Candidates must be able to administer and manage a law office and provide supervision for legal, social work, and support staff. In addition, candidates must be able to maintain a professional and supportive relationship with the private bar and be ready to serve as a leader in working with the courts, other attorneys, the Department of Social Services, and professional and community organizations.

Salary

Commensurate with experience. Salaries will be established once funding levels are finalized.

Application

Interested candidates should submit a letter of interest, resume, and legal writing sample to:

Michael Dsida, Deputy Chief Counsel
Children and Family Law Program
Committee for Public Counsel Services
44 Bromfield St.
Boston, MA 02108

Candidates may submit application materials by mail, fax (617-988-8495), or email (CAFLaic@publiccounsel.net). The letter of interest should include a description of the candidate's trial, supervisory, and administrative or management experience, as well as a discussion of his or her ideas and priorities for leading the office. Applications should be submitted by **May 26, 2006**, but may be accepted until the position is filled.

The Committee for Public Counsel Services is an equal opportunity employer.

Date of Posting: April 28, 2006